

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 7, 2011

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The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:05 pm in the Community Room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

### **Members Present**

First Selectman, Michael J. Freda  
Second Selectman, Timothy M. Doheny  
Third Selectman, Stephen A. Fontana

Mr. Freda introduced himself and Selectmen Doheny and Fontana, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Public Comments Relative to the Agenda – none**

Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 3, 2011

Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

**VNA Community Health Care Presentation** – Mr. Freda introduced Barbara Katz, the Director of Community Outreach for the VNA. Ms. Katz introduced her colleague, Joann Begly who works in their North Haven office. Ms. Katz gave a brief presentation which detailed what the VNA Community Healthcare can do for the residents of North Haven. The benefits of having a non-profit homecare agency serve the town, and the support services offered through their North Haven Resource Center and Caregiver support Network. Ms. Katz provided a variety of printed material that was available for the residents who may be interested.

**Selectman's Overview** – Mr. Freda provided an overview of the following topics:

#### Operational

Department of Public Works Spring 2011 "Snap Shot"

- Field Operations:
  - Bi-annual Bulk Waste Collection Program
  - Field Preparations (Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Soccer)
  - Spring Park Clean-up's (11 Town Parks, 200 Acres)
  - Facility Clean-up's (Senior Center, Day Care, Town Green, Central Block)
  - Street Sweeping
  - Drainage Projects and Catch Basin Cleaning - Flushing
  - Pot Hole Repairs (Cold Patch)
  - Storm Response, Debris and Tree Limb Removal
- Engineering:
  - Todd Drive, Todd Drive South Drainage
  - Universal Drive Milling and Paving
  - Valley Service Road Extension
  - Clintonville Elementary Playground
  - Skiff Street Sidewalk Replacement
  - Peter's Rock Electrical Improvements
  - Miscellaneous Drainage and Sight Line Projects
- Water Pollution Control Facility
  - Primary Clarifier Rehabilitation
  - Safety Training

- Scope Development for Inflow and Infiltration Work
  - Sewer Line Flushing and Cleaning
  - Storm Response and Inspections
  - Pump Station Improvements and Grease Removal
- Building Department
  - Quarterly Inspections Conducted - 297
  - Quarterly Permits Issued - 256
  - Quarterly Permit Fees Collected -\$66,713 (up 25% from Same Quarter 2010)
  - Emergency Response (Roofs and Structures)
  - View Permit Demonstration
- Bulk Trash Pick Up
  - Commenced April 4<sup>th</sup> and continues through next week
  - You must call DPW to request pick up
  - Curbside bulk items include white goods (refrigerators, freezers, ranges, and appliances); vehicle tires without rims; metal items; and upholstered items (mattresses, box springs, furniture, etc.)
- Quinnipiac University “Big Event Day”
  - Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>
  - 10 Quinnipiac Students
  - Working from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
  - Cleaning up several of our Town parks (bottles, cans, debris)
- Customer Service Training
  - April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>
  - All Town Service Personnel
  - 4 half day Workshops
- Public Safety Day
  - June 25, 2011 (rain date: 26<sup>th</sup>)
  - Police
  - Fire
- North Haven Substance Abuse Action Council
  - Participating in the DEA’s National Pill Return Program
  - Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
  - Fire Headquarters 11 Broadway
- Gary George – *thank you*
  - Canned goods collected during concerts on the green
  - Technology Committee

#### Health Insurance Update

- Anthem has lowered their rate to -4% on medical with stop loss insurance on Rx
- Guarantee on Administrative cost for next year
- We went out to bid
- Results = inconsistencies with coverage

#### Grant Updates

- Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund (LEEF) Grant
  - On March 24, 2011 the Town was awarded \$25,000 toward the replacement of several critical pieces of lawn equipment
  - The Town’s funding match is \$5,000
- Small Cities Block Grant ADA Modifications to Town Hall–
  - Moving forward with the process
  - Architects have been in
  - Public Hearing was held March 31, 2011 @ 7:00 pm- Library Community Room
  - *Public Support – Please write your letters of support and send to the Selectman’s office*
- STEAP Grant Award 2011 – Clintonville School Playground
  - DPW prepared a RFQ for consultant design services

- Statements of Qualifications were received March 11, 2011
  - Five consultants interviewed on April 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Town is currently reviewing the rating of its interview process before awarding the design phase of the project
- STEAP Grant Award 2011 – Skiff Street Sidewalks
  - The CT DOT will transmit a Personal Service Agreement for which the Town will enter into after a resolution is approved by the BOS at their May 5, 2011 meeting
  - DPW prepared a RFQ for consultant design services
  - Statements of Qualifications were received March 11, 2011
  - Five consultants interviewed on April 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Town is currently reviewing the rating of its interview process before awarding the design phase of the project
- Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) Program
  - Home Energy solution Audits, provides up to 600 free in-home energy audits to Town residents as conducted by United Illuminating Company.
  - Up to 400 single family residents have already signed up for the program.
  - Audits are presently being conducted and will continue until the total number of audits is achieved.

#### Financial Update:

- TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION 2010-2011 BUDGET
  - 2010-2011 \$43,949,350/2011-2012 \$44,389,014/1.0% Change/\$439,664 Dollar Change
- TOTAL TOWN GOVERNMENT 2011-2012 BUDGET WITHOUT CAPITAL NEEDS
  - 2010-2011 \$38,056,058/2011-2012 \$38,102,679/0.1% change/\$46,621 Dollar Change
- Capital Needs
  - The town had a total request from all departments which represented \$2,700,000 in total capital enhancements and improvements
  - We were able to reduce that to a total of \$1,300,000 of improvements that we need this year
- TOTAL RECOMMENDED 2011-2012 TOWN/BOE BUDGET INCLUDING CAPITAL
  - 2010-2011 \$83,103,777/2011-2012 \$84,091,296/ 1.2% Change/\$987,519 Dollar Change
- Mill Rate Projected Increase
  - .35 or less than one half of 1 mill
  - Current Mill Rate = 26.18
  - New Projected Mill Rate = 26.53
- Our Proposed Budget:
  - Maintains and enhances our level of service to our residents
  - Reflects true capital needs that will help enhance those services
  - Reinvests back into North Haven with capital upgrades
  - *I would encourage everyone to vote "Yes" and I endorse this budget!*
- Important Dates to Remember
  - April 20<sup>th</sup>- Board of Finance Meeting
  - May 9<sup>th</sup>- Annual Town Budget Meeting
  - May 17<sup>th</sup>- Budget Referendum

#### Economic Development:

- Yale New Haven Hospital
- Informational meetings:
- Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
- Sherwood Drive Residents
- The Rotary
- Process of arranging with Senior Center

- Property walk through with Sherwood Drive Residents
- Yale New Haven Hospital
- Approved by both the Inland and Wetland's Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission
- Yale has applied for their CON
- Possible merger with St. Raphael's will not have a bearing on this project
- Doug Gray visit March 30<sup>th</sup>
- Upper Washington Avenue
- Post Office Update
- New Businesses Coming
  - DSW Shoe Store
  - Chipotle Mexican Grill
  - Buffalo Wild Wings
- Freda's Focus
  - Continue to focus my efforts on moving this town forward in a positive fashion
  - Continue to focus on cost efficiencies
  - Continue to focus on maintaining a high level of "customer service"
  - Continue to focus on new economic development
  - Continue to focus on turning problems into solutions
  - Continue to focus on answering your questions, helping to educate the public on town government
  - Continue to focus on trying to help people in an effort to provide services to enhance the daily lives of our citizens.
  - Continue to focus on the wonderful attributes and people of this great Town!

**Correspondence** – Mr. Freda read a letter from Mr. Raymond Fowler regarding child abuse. He stated in his letter that child abuse is everyone's responsibility. He suggested several ways to help stop child abuse: 1. report it to police in serious cases 2. Request the abuser to seek help, either from family or friends, or from professional counseling when needed 3. Remind even the most simple abuser of the consequences to the child. He requested that the Board of Selectmen declare a "Prevent Child Abuse" week, or even month, in North Haven.

A discussion by the Selectmen took place. All agreed that this is a worthy suggestion and anything that can be done to incorporate other facets of the Town personnel into the cause would be beneficial. Mr. Fontana and Mr. Doheny mentioned involving the Superintendent of Schools, Harbor Health, and the Police Chief and his department. Mr. Freda asked Mr. Doheny and Mr. Fontana to collaborate and it was agreed that they will identify a month and a week within that month to identify as "child abuse awareness" week and present it at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Resolutions – Mr. Doheny read the following resolution, and motioned to approve same.  
Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

**Resolution A): FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN**

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of North Haven is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Town of North Haven hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of North Haven or his designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of North Haven and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Mr. Fontana read the resolution below. Mr. Doheny motioned to approve same.

Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

**Resolution B):**

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of North Haven make an application to the State for \$750,000 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Selectmen

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the CGS.

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of North Haven in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 is hereby approved and that First Selectman, Michael J. Freda is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, to carryout approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of North Haven.

Mr. Doheny read the Call for the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium of North Haven High School. Referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, after reciting the call, Mr. Doheny motioned to approve same.

Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

### **Resignations and Appointments –**

Mr. Freda read the resignation letter from Michelle Spader, Democratic Deputy Registrar of Voters and thanked her for her service to the Town of North Haven. Mr. Freda noted that Tracey Falasco, was expected to be sworn in as the new Democratic Deputy Registrar of Voters on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Freda acknowledged the passing of Robert E. Martin, Jr. who was an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

### **Bond Releases / Reductions –** Mr. Doheny read the following bond releases.

- 281 Washington Avenue, release the entire bond balance of \$16,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- 281 Washington Avenue, release the entire bond balance of \$20,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- 70 Universal Drive, Longhorn Restaurant, release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Mr. Doheny motioned to accept the bond release as presented.

Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

### **Property Tax Refunds –** Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the property tax refunds presented below:

Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

- Anderson, William K or Anderson, Kim S, 112 Maple Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$98.56
- Beebe, Joseph or Meechan, Katherine, 464 Clintonville Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$37.40
- Cab East LLC, Box 105704, Atlanta, GA 30348, in the amount of \$79.85, and in the amount of \$33.61, and in the amount of \$70.26, and in the amount of \$109.41, and in the amount of \$157.61, and in the amount of \$202.50, and in the amount of \$246.91, and in the amount of \$202.50, and in the amount of \$132.60, and in the amount of \$34.77
- DCFS Trust, P.O. Box 685, Roanoke, TX 76262, in the amount of \$67.94, and in the amount of \$341.44
- G Salon, 344 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$520.20
- Geltman, Kristen A, 141 Warner Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$117.71.
- Geltman, Michael A, 141 Warner Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$102.89, and in the amount of \$29.79, and in the amount of \$17.96
- Gonsalves, Krystina Ann, 6 Levere Street, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$275.03
- Honda Lease Trust, 600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040-9681, in the amount of \$41.23

- Lease Plan USA Inc, 1165 Sanctuary Pkwy, Alpharetta, GA 30009, in the amount of \$157.13
- Massini, Anita L, 11 St. John Street, Unit E-5, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$155.76
- Petra Construction Corp, 98 Rebeshi Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$2,748.90, and in the amount of \$2,591.97, and in the amount of \$1,567.69
- Ryan, Patrick, 303 South Drive, Fairhope, AL 36532, in the amount of \$43.96
- Trepanier, Pamela K or Trepanier, Michael J., 265 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$23.17

Mr. Freda advised that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, May 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

Mr. Fontana asked Mr. Freda if he could provide an update on the CNB project. Mr. Freda noted that the CNB project began somewhere perhaps back in 2005 and the Town has been in litigation for many years. We are trying to reconcile the issues and have worked with Chris Migliaro, the developer. At this juncture we have been able to reduce the 396 units. Toll Brothers is no longer involved. We have another developer who is negotiating with CNB to do the project with less units. We are working closely with the attorneys and keeping the residents in that area informed.

Mr. Fontana asked Mr. Freda about the revised personnel policy that was expected to be completed this spring. Mr. Freda explained that the Town Attorney has the draft of it right now and it is expected to be completed in about 45 days. Mr. Fontana asked if the document will be shared with the public for their comment. Mr. Freda replied he is not sure at this point if that would be appropriate.

#### **Public Comment –**

Mr. Sonazzaro, Elm Street, wanted to remind everyone that there is a “Stiles Fund” available for people in the community who are in need of assistance. He also voiced his concern over the development of Valley Service Road extension. This area is in a flood zone and should not be developed. He also stated that he was in disagreement with the Police Commissioner’s actions with regard to his recruitment of three police men who were laid off from New Haven. He also went on to say that he disagrees with the fact that the new superintendent of schools has an assistant and at his salary of \$165, 000, this is a waste of tax payer’s money.

Mr. Freda responded that in 2008 at a Town Meeting, the residents approved the development of Valley Service Road and we are going to continue to move forward with that. Mr. Doheny stated that there are wetlands there but they are indicated on the maps. Mr. Freda stated that we have a letter of intent from a developer. Mr. Freda stated in 1985 the Town of North Haven had 48 police officers, pre Universal Drive development. In 25 years we still have 48 police officers and we have not grown the police department despite an explosion of growth and development. He will not compromise public safety. Lastly regarding the superintendent, there has always been an assistant, and by State statute the Board of Finance can only approve the total funds, but has no control how it is allocated.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, asked if the paving of Universal Drive was settled. Mr. Amato stated that in a previous meeting he had asked a simple question regarding the Fire Chief. He stated that there has been banter about his comments going back and forth and feels he should be entitled to ask a question. He stated that those same individuals were written about in an article on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the New Haven Register. He also noted that he submitted a letter to Mr. Freda on October 28<sup>th</sup> regarding the Board of Finance meetings being held upstairs and his inability to attend the meetings. He said that Mr. Freda promised to move the meetings over to the Rec Center. He also noted that regarding Mr. Freda’s PowerPoint presentation at the Public Hearing he felt that Mr. Freda used a negative sign for a decrease but

the percentage only for increase. Mr. Freda explained that there was a substantial amount of information provided in the 90+ slides, and did not know what Mr. Amato was referring to. Mr. Amato noted we started at a 2% decrease in the Anthem rates, and due to numerous people, we have gotten it down to 4%. Mr. Freda explained again that if they utilized a sealed bid process, they would have had to use a period of 13<sup>th</sup> month claims history that would have included a claim that was \$1,000,360. He also stated that he formed a bipartisan committee including Mr. Kohlhepp and Hallahan who were involved in the process. He is convinced that they did the right thing, which saved the town a considerable amount of money. Mr. Doheny commented that he is very confident in Mr. Freda's ability to negotiate. He has the experience behind him to do the right thing. He thinks the 4% drop and the lock in on the administrative fee is commendable.

Mr. Jim Leahy, Regency Drive, stated that he saw the bid analysis and although there were numbers that were lower, they were not comparable, there were over 47 deviations. He would like to see the prescription plan modified to utilize generic prescriptions. He also stated that although he was pleased with the reduction, he did not like the process. He would have like to see a sealed bid process utilized. Mr. Freda stated he met with Mr. Leahy. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Leahy on many things, but has a fundamental difference on this issue. He stated that you lose the negotiating ability when using the sealed bid process. He does not feel that they work for health insurance. He also noted that it does not require it in the Charter, and in fact there was no sealed bid done in 2009, only a discussion between two carriers.

Mr. John Heeran, Debra Lane, stated that much of the problem is in the plan design and that is part of the bargaining process.

Mr. Billy Leiserson, Cella Terrace, agrees with Mr. Leahy regarding the process. Things should be transparent to provide the public with confidence. The idiosyncrasies of the insurance contracts make it difficult to bid on. He asked Mr. Freda what he plans to do in the future to have more people bidding and make sure there isn't any kind of funny business. Mr. Freda explained that we did go out to bid, and we did engage every carrier. He also noted that he formed a bipartisan committee to be part of the process, and it went very well and he has asked them to participate again. The discussion on the topic continued.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, stated that he feels the Town lucked out with regard to the appointment of the new Chief of Police, Thomas McLoughlin. Mr. Freda agreed with Mr. Amato.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Freda asked for additional questions, and seeing none and hearing none Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn at 8:35 pm.